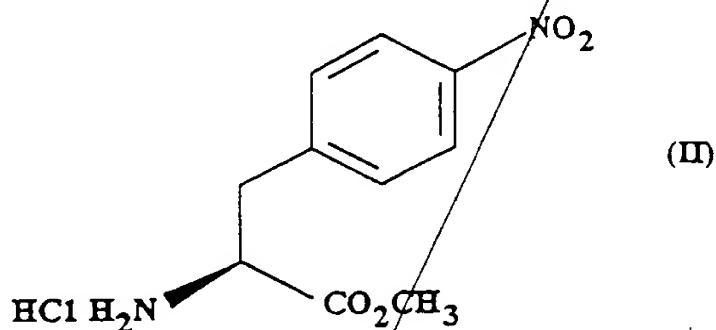


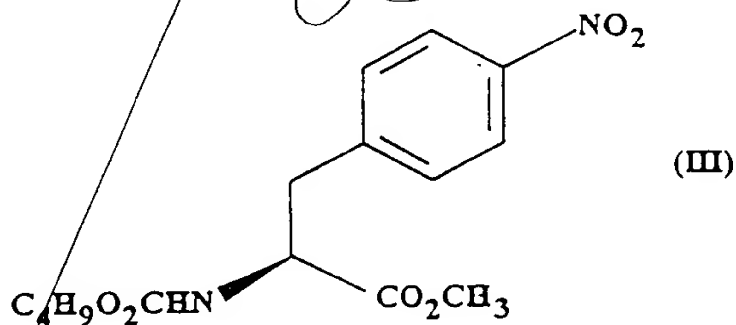
CLAIMS

1. A process for the preparation of a (S)-4-{{3-[2(dimethylamino)ethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl)methyl}-2-oxazolidinone which process comprises the steps of

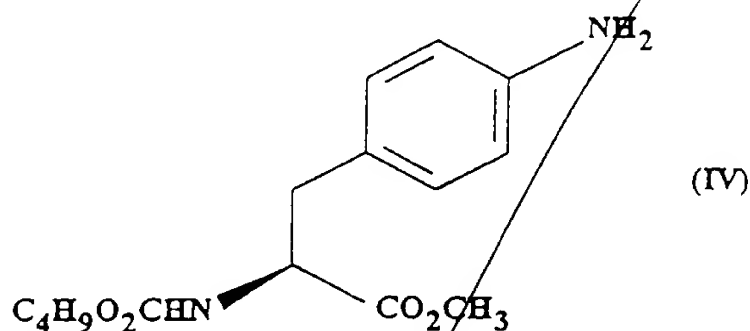
- a) forming a carbamate from methyl 4-nitro-(L)-phenylalaninate hydrochloride, represented by formula (II)



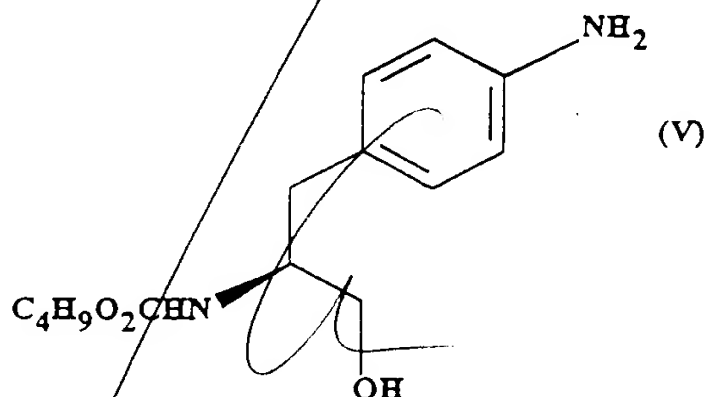
by adding sodium carbonate or sodium hydrogen carbonate and n-butyl chloroformate and reacting to give methyl(S)-N-butoxycarbonyl-4-nitrophenylalaninate, represented by formula (III)



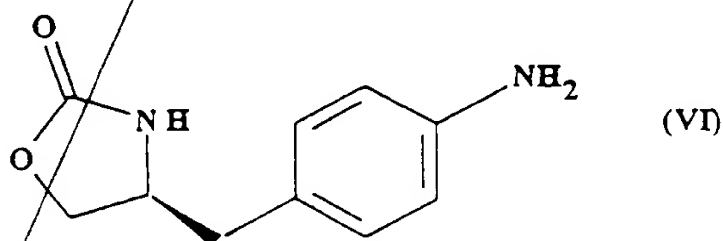
- b) reducing the compound of formula (III) to give methyl (S)-N-butoxycarbonyl-4-amino phenylalaninate, represented by formula (IV)



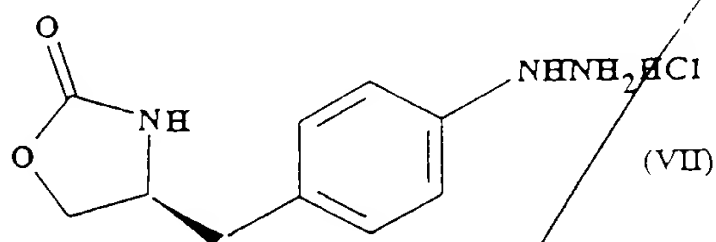
- c) reducing the methyl ester grouping  $-\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3$  in the compound of formula (IV) to give (S)-N-butoxycarbonyl-4-aminophenylalaninol, represented by formula (V)



- d) a ring closure of the compound of formula (V) to give (S)-4-(4-aminobenzyl)-2-oxazolidinone, represented by formula (VI)



- e) preparation of the diazonium salt of the compound of formula (VI) followed by reduction to give the hydrazine (S)-4-(4-hydrazinobenzyl)-2-oxazolidinone hydrochloride, represented by formula (VII)



- f) Fischer reaction of the compound of formula (VII) to give the compound of formula (I)
2. A process according to Claim 1 wherein one or more of steps (a) to (f) are carried out using a one pot procedure.
  3. A process according to Claim 1 or 2 wherein steps a) to d) are carried out by a one pot procedure followed by isolation of the compound of formula (VI) and then a second one pot procedure for steps e) and f).
  4. A process according to any one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein step a) is carried out in the presence of an aqueous ethyl acetate solvent, using sodium carbonate.
  5. A process according to Claim 4 wherein the addition of sodium carbonate in step (a) takes place at a temperature of approximately 20°C and the addition of N-butyl chloroformate takes place at a temperature of approximately 30°C.
  6. A process according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 wherein step b) is carried out by hydrogenation.
  7. A process according to any one of Claims 1 to 6 wherein the step (c) reduction is effected using sodium borohydride.

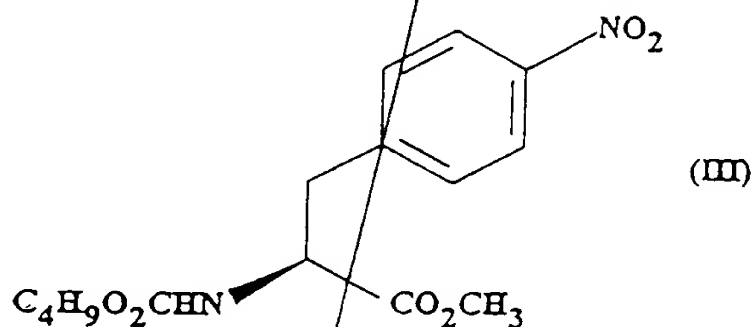
8. A process according to any one of Claims 1 to 7 wherein step d) is carried out on a dry butanol solution of the compound of formula (V).
9. A process according to any one of Claims 1 to 8 wherein the ring closure is carried out using a 30% solution of sodium methoxide in methanol at a temperature which is in the range 50-120°C.
10. A process according to any one of Claims 1 to 9 wherein step (e) is carried out by
- reacting the compound of formula (VI) with sodium nitrite, and
  - reducing the diazonium salt formed in (i) using sodium sulphite.
11. A process according to any one of Claims 1 to 10 wherein the Fischer reaction of step (f) is carried out at a relatively high dilution.
12. A process for the purification of (S)-4-{{[3-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl]-methyl}-2-oxazolidinone which process comprises the steps of
- dissolving crude (S)-4-{{[3-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-1H-indol-5-yl]-methyl}-2-oxazolidinone in a refluxing mixture of ethanol in ethyl acetate and filtering the hot solution;
  - slowly cooling the filtered solution to a temperature of about 5°C
  - centrifuging the product from step b), washing with ethyl

acetate then drying; and

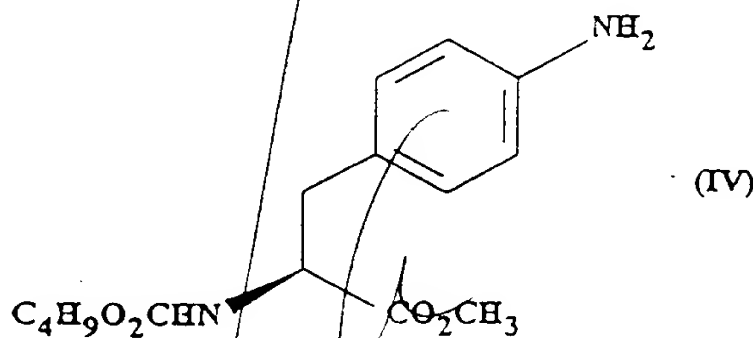
d) treating with acetone to remove solvated ethyl acetate.

13. Non-solvated, pure (S)-4-{[3-(dimethylamino ethyl)-1H-indol-5-yl]-methyl}-2-oxazolidinone.

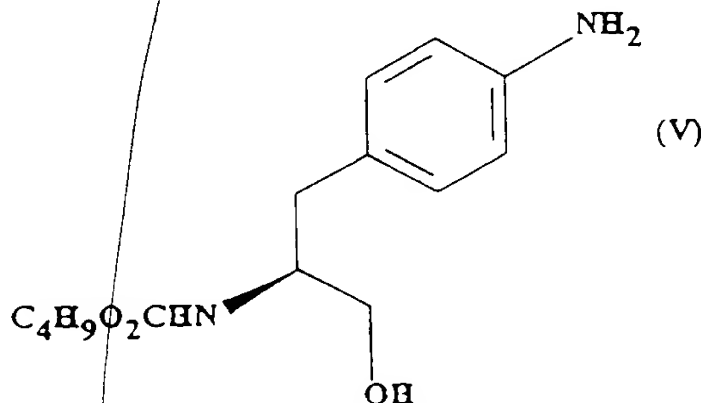
14. An intermediate of formula (III)



15. An intermediate of formula (IV)

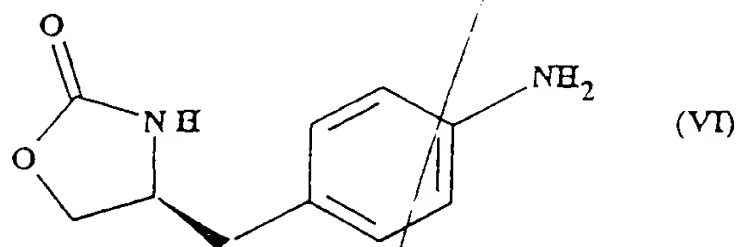


16. An intermediate of formula (V)

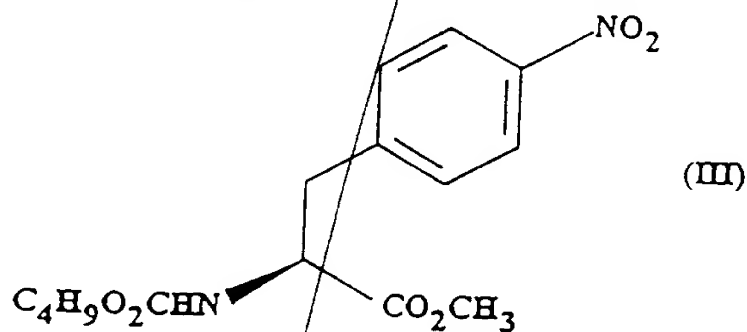


27

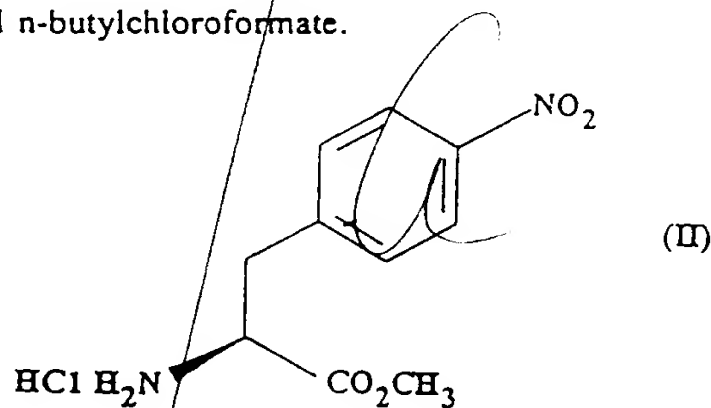
17. An intermediate of formula (VI)



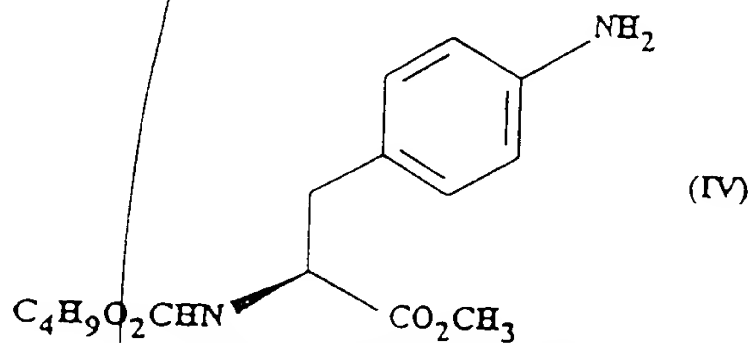
18. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (III)



which process comprises reacting a compound of formula (II) with sodium carbonate and n-butylchloroformate.

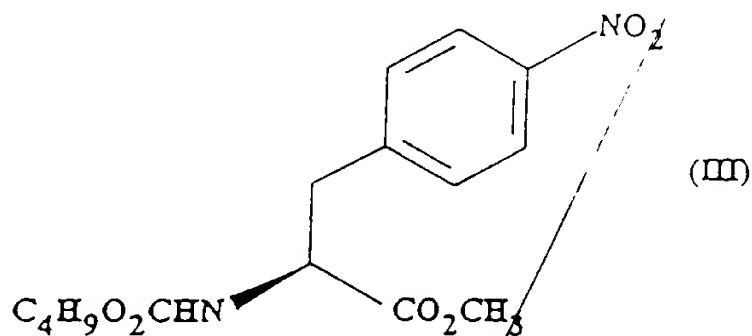


19. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (IV)

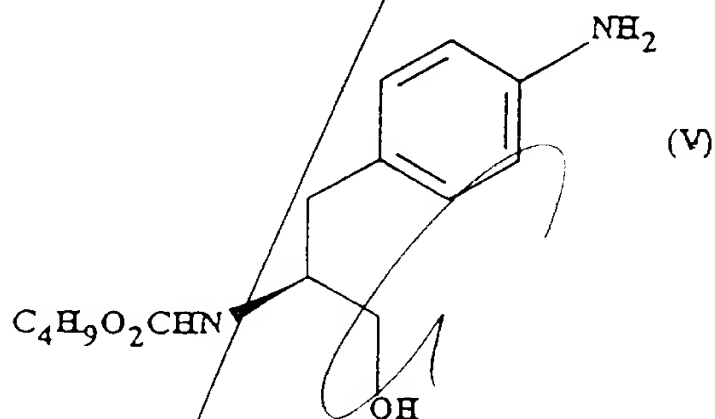


SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

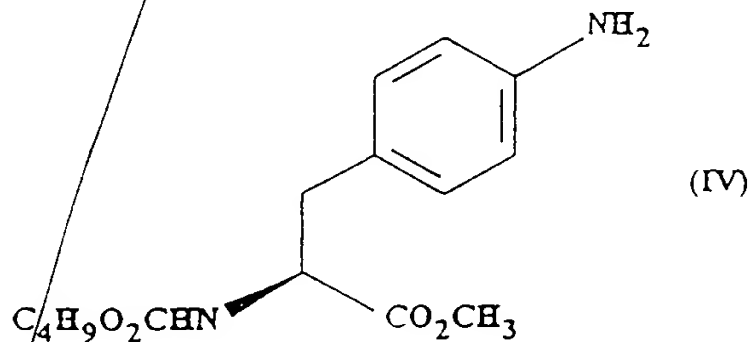
which process comprises reducing a compound of formula (III)



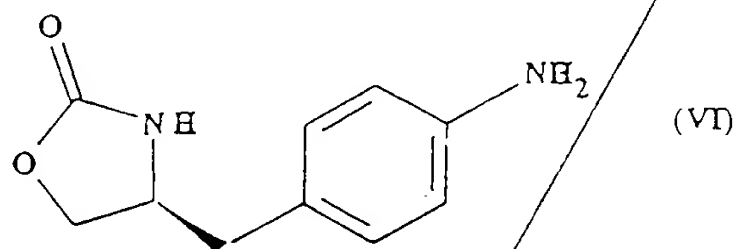
20. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (V)



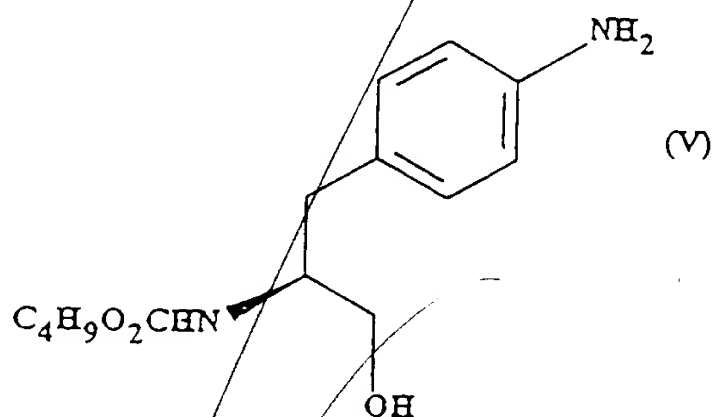
which process comprises reduction of a compound of formula (IV)



21. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (VI)



which process comprises a ring closure of a compound of formula (V)



22. Use of an intermediate as claimed in Claim 14 in the manufacture of a composition for use in medicine.
23. Use of an intermediate as claimed in Claim 15 in the manufacture of a composition for use in medicine.
24. Use of an intermediate as claimed in Claim 16 in the manufacture of a composition for use in medicine.
25. Use of an intermediate as claimed in Claim 17 in the manufacture of a composition for use in medicine.



26. Use as claimed in any one of Claims 22 to 25 wherein the composition is for use in the treatment and prophylaxis of migraine.